

MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

ACTION

~~TOP SECRET / SENSITIVE~~
EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

July 18, 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: HENRY A. KISSINGER
FROM: L. S. *[Signature]* AGLEBURGER
SUBJECT: Chinese Reply on Cambodia

In light of today's message on Cambodia, I see no alternative but an indefinite postponement of your visit to Peking, as difficult as this will be for you in terms of domestic reactions.

At Tab A is a message I suggest you hand to the Chinese. At Tab B are talking points which could be used in oral amplification of the message.

*(Tab A
never transmitted)*

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DOS, NSS, Review
Completed.

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Tab A

In light of the message on Cambodia handed to General Scowcroft by Mr. Han Hsu on July 18, the US side believes it best that further planning for a trip by Dr. Kissinger to Peking be postponed to a time when both sides can look forward to a productive visit.

The US side regrets the necessity of proposing a postponement, since it had been hoped that a visit by Dr. Kissinger would provide an opportunity to pursue issues of common interest, as earlier discussed with Ambassador Huang Chen, as well as to further the cause of peace in Cambodia.

It will, of course, be necessary to make a public announcement of the postponement of Dr. Kissinger's visit. The US side proposes, if satisfactory to the Chinese side, to make the following statement at a mutually acceptable date:

"The Government of the United States and the Government of the Peoples Republic of China have decided that, because of scheduling difficulties for both parties, it will be necessary to postpone consideration of a visit by Dr. Kissinger to Peking."

The US side would make no further comment on this announcement.

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The US side would make no further comment on this
announcement.

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Tab B

TALKING POINTS

- I have taken note of your most recent communication on Cambodia. Aside from my disappointment with the substance of that communication, I particularly regret its tone, which is more appropriate to a stage in our relationships which I thought we have moved beyond.
- I regret the necessity of proposing a postponement of my visit, ~~since I had firmly hoped that the process of developing a better understanding between Prince Sihanouk and myself would have encouraged an even more rapid improvement in relations between the United States and the Peoples Republic of China.~~
- The United States must, of course, reserve the right to take whatever steps it believes necessary -- in the absence of any opportunity to meet with Prince Sihanouk -- to strengthen the position of the Lon Nol Government.
- You will find it interesting that*
~~Postponement of my visit to Peking will come at an awkward time, since we are receiving an increasing number of reports of developing Soviet interest in the Cambodian situation.~~
- The Soviet Charge in Phnom Penh, for example, has recently been in contact with senior officials of the Cambodian government about how the USSR might be helpful in negotiations between the two Cambodian sides. During those conversations, according to our reports, the Charge rejected the idea of any dialogue with Sihanouk, whom he described as unacceptable to the Khmer Rouge, and as outmoded.
- We are extremely doubtful that Soviet involvement will be beneficial to the interests of either of us.
- Difficult as the issue of Cambodia will be to both sides, we nevertheless share a common interest in pursuing a number of matters of vital concern to both sides. I touched upon the most important of these in my conversation with Ambassador Huang Chen. I would hope that it will not be too long before *we can* ~~the atmosphere has cleared sufficiently for us to resume~~ pursuit of these matters.

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Tab B
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-- As to the visit of Senator Mansfield, it is of course the responsibility of the Chinese side to determine his itinerary, people upon whom he will call, etc. I must state in all frankness, however, that we will not lightly accept it if the Senator is given an audience with Prince Sihanouk or the Prince's senior advisers.

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